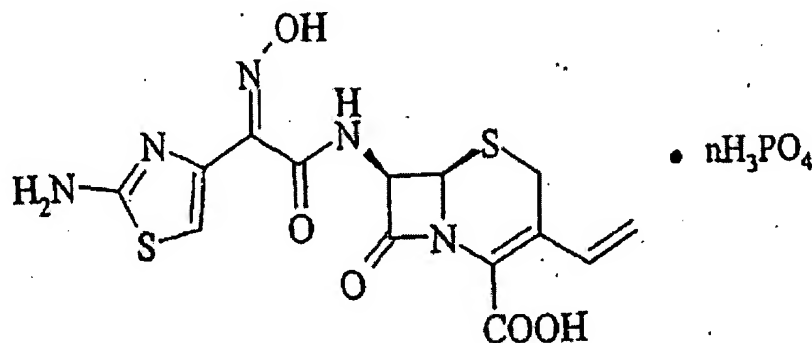


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

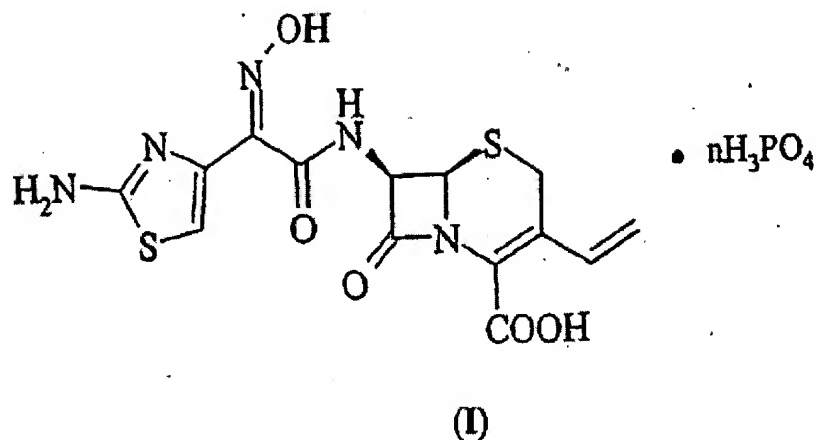
1. (Currently amended) Cefdinir salts of formula (I)



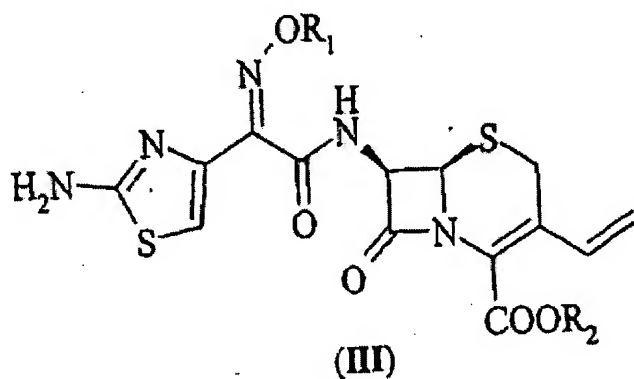
(I)

wherein n ranges from 1 to 3, and the hydrates and solvates thereof.

2. (Original) Cefdinir salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 2.
3. (Previously presented) Cefdinir salts according to claim 1 in the crystalline form.
4. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of salts of formula (I)



comprising ~~the treatment~~ treating with phosphoric acid of a compound of formula (III)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a benzhydryl, trityl or p-methoxybenzyl group, and

R<sub>2</sub> is benzhydryl, t-butyl or p-methoxybenzyl group.

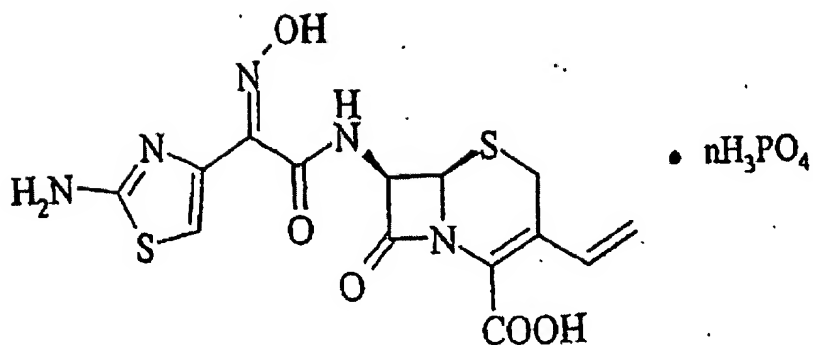
5. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the treatment is conducted in ~~characterized in that use is made of~~ an organic solvent selected from:

7. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 characterized in that use is made of 1 to 20 equivalents of phosphoric acid.

Nc1nc(C(=O)N[C@@H]2C(=O)N[C@H](C=C[C@H]2C(=O)O)S2)c3ccsc3

(II)

4



(I)

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with an organic or inorganic base, in which the organic base is triethylamine ~~triethylamine~~ and the inorganic base is ~~selected from ammonia, sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, or potassium hydroxide or sodium or potassium phosphate,~~ followed by ~~treatment~~menting of the resulting solution with conventional acids.

9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 8 wherein the salt of formula (I) is obtained by reacting crude cefdinir with phosphoric acid.